

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag comprising:

a front panel; and

a rear panel attached to the front panel, the airbag being constructed to be retained in a recess of an inner skin of a vehicle door, so that the airbag is disposed between the inner skin and the a trim panel, wherein the airbag is attached to an attachment mechanism comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 2 to about 25 millimeters.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 7.5 to about 25 millimeters.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 2 to about 4 millimeters.

Claim 5 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the airbag is made of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, or combinations of metal and plastic.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the airbag is constructed such that when it is in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration, the shape of the airbag is substantially rectangular.

Claim 7 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the airbag is in fluid communication with an inflator housed within an inflator housing.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag is in claim 1 wherein the airbag provides impact protection to the pelvis ~~and/or~~ or leg of a vehicle occupant.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein a reaction beam is attached to the inner skin and supports the pelvic airbag.

Claim 10 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 9 wherein the reaction beam is bowed.

Claim 11 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 9 further comprising a rubber damper that is positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing.

Claim 12 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the airbag comprises one or more folds.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim ~~13~~ 1 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises one or more weldments.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim ~~15~~ 1 wherein the brackets are attached to the airbag via one or more connectors.

Claim 18 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the airbag further comprises a shell layer that is attached to the front panel.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18 wherein the shell layer is designed to fit into an aperture in the trim panel.

Claim 20 (original): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the trim panel is an integral layer that covers the airbag.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag ~~assembly~~ as in claim 1 wherein when the airbag is in ~~the~~ an inflated configuration, the airbag increases the rigidity of the vehicle door.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag ~~assembly~~ as in claim 1 wherein the airbag ~~assembly~~ is constructed ~~is constructed~~ such that ~~when the~~ when the airbag is in ~~the~~ an inflated configuration, the airbag is capable of dissipating ~~the~~ energy associated with ~~the~~ a crash.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the airbag is constructed such that deploying the airbag into ~~the~~ an inflated configuration decreases ~~the~~ a lateral length of the airbag.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly comprising:

a pelvic airbag, the airbag comprising a front panel and a rear panel attached to the front panel, wherein the airbag is constructed to be retained in a vehicle door between an inner skin and a trim panel and positioned entirely below an armrest of the vehicle door ~~the thickness of the airbag in the uninflated configured being between about 2 to about 25 millimeters; and~~

an attachment mechanism for attaching the airbag within a vehicle door, wherein the attachment mechanism is attached to the airbag and comprises one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 67 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 7.5 to about 25 millimeters.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 67 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 2 to about 4 millimeters.

Claim 29 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the assembly further comprises an inflator in fluid communication with the airbag, the inflator being housed within an inflator housing that is attached to the rear panel.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 further comprising a reaction beam disposed to support the pelvic airbag.

Claim 31 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 further comprising a rubber dampener.

Claim 32 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the airbag is made of a material selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, or combinations of metal and plastic.

Claim 33 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the pelvic airbag further comprises one or more folds.

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises one or more weldments.

Claim 36 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the airbag further comprises a shell layer that is attached to the front panel.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein when the airbag is inflated, the airbag increases the rigidity of the vehicle door.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the airbag assembly is constructed ~~is constructed~~ such that ~~when the~~ when the airbag is in ~~the~~ an inflated configuration, the airbag is capable of dissipating ~~the~~ energy associated with ~~the~~ a crash.

Claim 39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the assembly is constructed such that when the airbag is deployed into ~~the~~ an inflated configuration, ~~the~~ a lateral length of the airbag will decrease.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly comprising:

a pelvic airbag, the airbag comprising a front panel and a rear panel attached to ~~[[a]]~~ the front panel, the airbag being constructed to be retained in a vehicle door between ~~the~~ an inner skin and ~~the~~ a trim panel;

an inflator in fluid communication with the airbag, the inflator being housed within an inflator housing ~~that is attached to the rear panel; and~~

a reaction beam attached to the inner skin, wherein the reaction beam is disposed to support the pelvic airbag; and
a rubber damper positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the reaction beam is bowed such that it ~~presses against the rear panel~~ prevents the pelvic airbag from collapsing into a recess in the vehicle door.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 2 to about 25 millimeters.

Claim 45 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the airbag is made of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, or combinations of metal and plastic.

Claim 46 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the rear panel includes one or more folds.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the airbag is attached to the vehicle door via an attachment mechanism.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 47 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises one or more weldments.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 47 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel.

Claim 50 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the airbag includes a shell layer that is attached to the front panel.

Claim 51 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the trim panel covers the airbag.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly comprising:

a vehicle door comprising an outer skin, an inner skin, and a trim panel, wherein the inner skin comprises a recess;

a pelvic airbag, the airbag comprising a front panel and a rear panel attached to the front panel, the airbag being constructed to be retained in ~~[[a]]~~ the recess of the vehicle door between the inner skin and the trim panel, wherein the size of the recess corresponds to the size of the airbag;

a reaction beam attached to the inner skin, wherein the reaction beam is disposed to support the pelvic airbag;

a rubber damper positioned between the reaction beam and an inflator housing;

an attachment mechanism attached to the airbag and comprising one or more mounting brackets that span the rear panel, wherein one or more fasteners engage the one or more mounting brackets and attach the airbag to the inner skin; and

an inflator housed within an inflator housing, the inflator being in fluid communication with the airbag.

Claim 53 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein the thickness of the airbag in ~~the~~ an uninflated configuration is between about 2 to about 25 millimeters.

Claim 54 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein the airbag is made of a material selected from the group consisting of metal, plastic, or combinations of metal and plastic.

Claim 55 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein ~~the assembly further comprises a reaction beam that is attached to the inner skin,~~ the reaction beam being

bowed such that it ~~presses against the rear panel~~ prevents the pelvic airbag from collapsing into the recess in the vehicle door.

Claim 56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein the trim panel covers the airbag.

Claim 58 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein the door further comprises a door core.

Claim 59 (original): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 58 wherein the door core comprises one or more tear seams.

Claim 60 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 58 wherein the door core covers the airbag.

Claim 61 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 58 wherein the door core includes a hole.

Claim 62 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein the airbag is positioned entirely below ~~the~~ an armrest of the vehicle door.

Claim 63 (currently amended): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 52 wherein the ~~inner skin~~ trim panel comprises ~~[[a]]~~ an aperture that accommodates the airbag.

Claim 64 (new): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the recess is an opening.

Claim 65 (new): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the size of the recess corresponds to the size of the airbag.

Claim 66 (new): A pelvic airbag as in claim 1 wherein the recess is located below an armrest of the vehicle door.

Claim 67 (new): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 26 wherein the thickness of the airbag in an uninflated configuration is between about 2 to about 25 millimeters.

Claim 68 (new): A pelvic airbag assembly as in claim 42 wherein the inflator housing is attached to the rear panel.

Claim 69 (new): A pelvic airbag as in claim 52 wherein the recess is an opening.

Claim 70 (new): A pelvic airbag as in claim 52 wherein the recess is located below an armrest of the vehicle door.